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REVIEWS

Catálogo Paremiológico de Melchor García Moreno, Madrid, 1918. 4°,
248 pp.

For the linguist one of the most interesting of the many subdivisions of folklore into which students of that science are pleased to divide it is that of the proverb. While folklore in itself has not enjoyed in Spain the wide and sympathetic popularity that has been its portion in many other lands, yet the division or subdivision just mentioned has from very early times received the attention of amateurs and scholars alike. Abundant evidence of this is afforded by the work of D. Melchor García Moreno, whose deep interest in the subject has led him to publish a catalogue of the splendid collection of paremiologic works that he has made.

Though the attempts at definition have been many, as yet no thoroughly satisfactory definition of a proverb, meeting with universal acceptance, has been made. Students are familiar with Lord Russell's "The wisdom of many and the wit of one." Pending the universally accepted definition and until the strict limitations of the proverb are defined, no serious complaint can be brought against Señor García for including in his catalogue works that are not usually to be considered as belonging to the proverb's domain. The author's eagerness to possess every obtainable work containing a collection of Spanish proverbs, no matter how small, explains the inclusion of such works as the first dictionary published by the Academy, the so-called *Autoridades*.

But quite apart from the inclusion of such works, the bibliography is not only the most recent, but one of the completest that we know for the Spanish field. Señor García has 480 entries, thirteen of which are manuscripts. In some instances there are duplications of titles, but as a rule the edition is different and frequently constitutes an essentially different work. Some of the titles included are of foreign works, but the number is relatively small. By way of comparison, Salvá's collection, exceedingly rich in point of rare material, had 143 entries, of which twenty-six may be considered duplicates. Of the whole number, fifty-three are not to be found in the García collection in one edition or another.

The foundation for the Salvá collection was, however, not bibliography, but bibliophilism, for its founder scorned, as a rule, to place any contemporary publication in his collection. Not so Señor García; not only the earliest printed specimens, but the latest and sometimes least important works enter into the list of those he has gathered together. Yet the foregoing remark must in no wise be considered as a disparagement of the author's work. He has succeeded in getting together a wonderfully rich collection consisting, in some instances, of unique copies and of works whose titles even were apparently unknown to Salvá, Gallardo, and Sbarbi. The titles possessed by Salvá and not found in the García collection are for the most part books

printed in the sixteenth century and were extremely rare even in Salvá's lifetime.

Sefior García's love of his subject has led him also, in order to make his collection complete in the most essential material, to reproduce two volumes of extraordinary rarity, viz.: Timoneda, *El Sobremesa y Alivio de caminantes*, Valencia, 1569, and Vallés, *Libro de refranes*, Zaragoza, 1549. Vallés is considered representative of the region of Aragon, Hernán Núñez and Correas of Castile and León, Mallara and Caro y Cejudo of Andalusia, and Horozco of the central district in general. Any collection possessing the works of these authors has, consequently, a fundamental basis for a study of the Spanish proverb in its early forms in the regions of Castilian speech.

To enumerate all the interesting items that serve to give value to the catalogue at hand would require mention of the larger part of its contents. Some idea of its wealth may be had when one finds there Escobar's *Las quattrocientas Respuestas a otras tantas preguntas*, Valladolid, 1545, with its still rarer *Segunda parte*, *id.*, 1552; the very rare second edition of the *Trescientas preguntas*, 1546, of López de Corella; the 1502 edition of the *Proverbios de don Yñigo López de Mendoza*, together with four other early editions of the same author, one of which, Antwerp, 1551, was unknown to any other bibliographer, and of another of which, Sevilla, 1546, Gallardo and Salvá had no knowledge; the first edition, *rarisima*, of *La Philosophia Vulgar* of Mallara, Sevilla, 1568; and the first edition of the *Refranes o Proverbios en Romance* of Hernán Núñez, Salamanca, 1555.

From a purely bibliographical point of view one of the prizes of the collection is the hitherto undescribed *Refranes famosísimos y provechosos glosados*, Burgos, 1509, whose existence had been suspected but never verified. This unique copy is the earliest known dated edition, though Haebler supposes a copy which he describes to belong to the last decade of the fifteenth century, basing his attribution on the identity of the title-page engraving with that of *Lo Cacer d'Amor*, Barcelona, 1493. Identity of engravings does not, however, prove conclusively identity of date nor necessarily close proximity thereof, for it is well established that the same engravings were used frequently in different years and places.

Though the fame of Erasmus may not rest on his activities as a collector and writer of proverbs, yet his popularity as such in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries is indicated by no less than twelve editions of his collections of adages. The Spanish translations were numerous, and despite the prohibition placed by the Inquisition on all of Erasmus's works they found their way in Spain. The popularity of the Distichs of Cato is well known, and of this work there are several editions to be found in the García collection.

No account of the Catálogo would be complete without recognition of the very satisfactory way in which its compiler has brought it out. Not only has he furnished all necessary bibliographical details, but in the case of the more important works he has added lists of other editions and judicious comments concerning them, calling attention to errors on the part of previous bibliographers, when, in his judgment, there were any. He has also re-

produced the title pages of all the rarer volumes comprised in his collection and in numerous cases has added portraits of Spain's famous collectors and publishers of proverbs. The work is done with such care and completeness as to render it worthy of a place among the choicest works of Spanish bibliography, and it is to be hoped that Señor García's example will find worthy followers in this and all other branches of Spanish literature.

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BOOK NOTICES

Mexican Writers: Estelle Luttrell, Librarian, University of Arizona Library. 83 pp. Univ. of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. \$1.00.

This pamphlet contains synopses of books and biographical notes about Mexican writers with ten full-page plates of portraits of fifty-five prominent authors. It lists 239 volumes, with a complete index affording easy reference to the authors. The synopses develop the theme of the works in question and will prove of great value to the student of Mexico and Mexican literature.

Historia de Gil Blas de Santillana: Padre Isla, edited by Ventura Fuentes and Victor François of the College of the City of New York. vi + 216 pp. (111 text, 32 exercises, 13 verbs, 60 vocabulary.) Henry Holt & Company. 96 cents.

The text is, of course, only a small portion of the original work. Each exercise, at the back of the book, consists of a set of questions for conversation, a considerable amount of grammar drill, and a composition exercise. The section devoted to verbs contains paradigms of regular verbs and the most common irregular verbs.

Manual de Comercio: M. Romera-Navarro, of the University of Pennsylvania. vi + 276 pp. Henry Holt & Company. 1920. \$1.24.

There is an "Advertencia Preliminar" addressed by the author to the reader. The book is divided into four parts. Part I (98 pp.) treats of commerce in general. Part II (10 pp.) is devoted to commercial accounting. Part III (58 pp.) deals with commercial correspondence. Part IV (110 pp.) contains explanations and grammatical notes, Spanish-English and English-Spanish vocabularies, the most common abbreviations, a table of numerals, and an alphabetical index.

La Batalla del Marne: Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, edited by Federico de Onís. xi + 201 pp. (119 text, 12 notes, 70 vocabulary). D. C. Heath & Co., 1920. \$1.00.

The story is taken from the novel, "Los Cuatro Jinetes del Apocalipsis." Preceding the story is a sketch of Blasco Ibáñez (7 pp.) in Spanish by the editor. A short chapter, partly from the original work, partly by the editor, connects the account of the battle with what precedes in the original work. The notes are both historical and linguistic.